Senate
Impeachment Court
RECEIVED
Date: 06 July 2026 Time: 3:25 pm
Atty. RENATO N. BANTUG JR.
Clerk of the Impeachment Court

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SENATE
IMPEACHMENT COURT

IN THE MATTER OF:

IMPEACHMENT TRIAL OF VICE PRESIDENT SARA ZIMMERMAN DUTERTE

CASE NO. 004-2026

MANIFESTATION

(Re: *Comment* dated July 2, 2026)

The Prosecution, while fully deferring to the sound discretion of the Honorable Impeachment Court on all pre-trial matters, the Impeachment Court being ultimately vested with full authority to control and streamline the proceedings, respectfully submits its comments on the Respondent's assertions as follows:

On the Statement of Issues

1. Respondent asserts that the statement of issues in her *Pre-Trial Brief* dated June 15, 2026 should also be included in the *Pre-Trial Order* "as this is only proper and fair," considering that "the current statement of issues … encapsulates the Prosecution's proposed issues for resolution"[1] and that "these issues … further goes *(sic)* into whether respondent's constitutional rights, applicable to the entire impeachment process, have been materially and substantially violated."[2]

2. The Respondent's proposed additional issues, particularly those raising collateral constitutional claims, do not clarify or simplify the case but instead risk diverting the proceedings from their core constitutional function. The determination of whether Respondent's constitutional rights were allegedly violated is not properly within the issues for resolution in this impeachment trial, especially as the same matter has been elevated to and is presently pending before the Supreme Court, where it properly belongs for adjudication. In this regard, the Prosecution respectfully submits that the Pre-Trial Order already correctly and sufficiently defines the issues necessary for a fair and efficient trial in accordance with Section XXI of the Senate Rules of

---

1 See Respondent's *Comment* dated July 2, 2026, par. 4, p. 1.

2 See Respondent's *Comment* dated July 2, 2026, par. 5, p. 2.

Procedure on Impeachment Trials, and that the Impeachment Court, in the exercise of its authority to control its proceedings, may properly decline to adopt proposed expansions that would only introduce unnecessary complexity and detract from the focused resolution of the Articles of Impeachment.

On the language during trial

3. Respondent seeks the removal of the qualifier that the use of either English or Filipino shall be "subject to the Court's control of proceedings."[3] While the Prosecution reiterates that the allowance of either English or Filipino is intended to promote accessibility to the Filipino public and to enable witnesses and counsel to express themselves with clarity and precision, the Prosecution respectfully submits to the sound discretion of this Honorable Impeachment Court, which is best situated to determine how to control and regulate its proceedings in a manner that ensures order, efficiency, and the orderly conduct of trial.

On reciprocal witness disclosure

4. While the *Pre-Trial Order* requires the Prosecution to disclose its intended witnesses for July 6, 7, and 8, 2026 on July 3, 2026, there is no notice requirement with respect to witness disclosure for other trial dates. As such, the Prosecution agrees with the Respondent's proposal that the parties be given notice of the witness to be presented five (5) days prior to the intended date of presentation of such witness, with the further qualification that the said period shall be in calendar days, and that the parties shall make such disclosure through any recognized mode of service and filing without being limited to electronic mail. Moreover, consistent with Administrative Matter No. 2026-001, series of 2026, a summary of each witness' expected testimony must be included in the aforementioned disclosure.

On opening statements.

5. With respect to Respondent's proposal to limit the opening statement of each party to one counsel per side and to fifteen (15) minutes each, the Prosecution respectfully submits the matter to the sound discretion of this Honorable Impeachment Court, which is best situated to determine the appropriate manner and parameters of presenting opening statements in order to ensure the orderly, efficient, and fair conduct of the proceedings.

---

[3] See *Comment*, par. 7, p. 2.

6. Finally, the Prosecution opposes all other comments contained in Respondent's *Comment* dated July 2, 2026, particularly in relation to the summary of admitted facts, the marked exhibits, the "common exhibits," the number of trial days and order of presentation and the objections to the admissibility or relevance of evidence marked.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.

Quezon City for Pasay City, July 6, 2026.

THE PUBLIC PROSECUTORS
FOR THE IMPEACHMENT CASE AGAINST
VICE PRESIDENT SARA ZIMMERMAN DUTERTE
House of Representatives
Constitution Hills
Quezon City, Philippines 1126

By:

[redacted]

GERVILLE R. LUISTRO
Representative
2nd District, Batangas

[redacted]

TERRY L. RIDON
Representative
BICOL SARO Party-list

[redacted]

[redacted]

RAMON RODRIGO L. GUTIERREZ
Representative
1-RIDER Party-list

[redacted]

YSABEL MARIA J. ZAMORA
Representative
Lone District, San Juan City

[redacted]

[redacted]

LORENZ R. DEFENSOR
Representative
3rd District, Iloilo City

[redacted]

[redacted]

JOSE MANUEL "CHEL" I. DIOKNO
Representative
AKBAYAN Party-list

[redacted]

[redacted]

LEILA M. DE LIMA
Representative
Mamamayang Liberal (ML)
Party-list

[redacted]

KAKA J. BAG-AO
Representative
Lone District, Dinagat Island

[redacted]

[redacted]

JONATHAN KEITH T. FLORES
Representative
2nd District, Bukidnon

[redacted]

LORDAN G. SUAN
Representative
1st District, Cagayan de Oro City

[redacted]

[redacted]

JOEL R. CHUA
Representative
3rd District, City of Manila

[redacted]

Copy furnished:

[redacted] 4/6/26

FORTUN NARVASA & SALAZAR
Counsel for Respondent
23rd Floor Multinational Bancorporation Centre
6805 Ayala Avenue, City of Makati, 1226 Philippines
info@fnslaw.com.ph